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Ripon and Pateley Bridge Rural District Council.

WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1942.

Ripon and Pateley Bridge Rural District Council.

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RIPON AND PATELEY BRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1942.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officers of Health:

CHARLES ASHLEY FLINTOFF, L.R.C.P. (Lond.) M.R.C.S. (Eng.)

WILLIAM SAMUEL WATERHOUSE, M.B., Ch.B.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

JOHN KENNERLEY WALTON, Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspector of Nuisances (1920) and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods (1920).

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

*WALLACE TODD BECKWITH, Cert. S.I.B., A.R. San. I., M.S.I.A.
Diploma of R.S.I. and S.I.J.E.B. Sanitary Inspector.
Diploma of R.S.I. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

*WILLIAM ERIC WIGGLESWORTH, Cert. S.I.B., A.R. San. I., M.S.I.A.
Diploma of R.S.I. and S.I.J.E.B. Sanitary Inspector.

FRANCIS JOSEPH THOMPSON, Cert. S.I.B., M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A.
Diploma of R.S.I. and S.I.J.E.B. Sanitary Inspector (1930).
Diploma of R.S.I. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods (1940).

* *On active service with His Majesty's Forces overseas.*

Mill House,
Pateley Bridge,
31st December, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ripon and Pateley Bridge Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1942. It is a pleasure to report that, generally speaking, good health has prevailed throughout the year. This is, indeed, appreciated by everyone and particularly by all those who are charged with the maintenance of the Health Services and the prevention or cure of disease, for the demands of the Services and Government Departments upon manpower have been such that those left to attend to the needs of the civil population have been very hard put to it to carry out their work in a manner they would deem fitting.

I am sure it is in the best interests of the Public Health Department that the Council have recently appointed an additional Sanitary Inspector to temporarily replace one of the Officers away on service. Since the outbreak of war the Chief Sanitary Inspector has carried out not only the whole of the work of his Department but has had many other onerous commitments peculiar to war-time. I am in agreement with the desire of the Ministry of Health that wherever possible Public Health Officers should be principally employed on their normal duties, although I am fully aware that in a district such as yours there are no other persons who can be found with the local knowledge required for the performance of many of the necessary emergency duties.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The propaganda, both national and local, advocating immunisation has been eminently successful. The absence of epidemics of the disease, too, has produced confidence and helped to break down any prejudice which may have existed. The children of your district are fast on the way to becoming 100 per centum immunised, that is, apart from the stranger or visitor to the area, and these are not being neglected by any means. I must thank those teachers and others who have contributed to the success of the scheme, which, I may add, has not been attained without effort and perseverence.

SCABIES.

Considering the movements of the population in war-time the district has been singularly fortunate in the number of cases of scabies known to exist. I say known to exist, for I believe there have been some few that have arrived in and departed from the district without their presence having been felt at the time. All known cases have received immediate treatment and infestation has at no time assumed serious proportions. You may be interested to know that among the native population Scabies in time of peace is unknown.

BUGS AND LICE.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector tells me that the bed bug is a rara avis in this district, and that lousiness is usually confined to itinerant harvesters and the like. These latter are watched for and given attention.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Although the season has been moderately dry, the water supplies of the district have stood up well to the

demands made on them. True, a few individual properties have been at times shorter than is usual, but apparently no great inconvenience or harm has been occasioned, and where shortages have occurred, the Department has, where possible, provided a supply to cover the dry period.

The demand for water for milk cooling is increasing and will continue to do so. Milk of good keeping quality is demanded with consequent calls on water for an immediate reduction in temperature of the milk. There will be scope for considerable improvement in the storage and distribution of water all over the district when materials and manpower are available.

MILK.

The register shows that cowsheds in which milk is produced have been about the 1,000 mark throughout the year. Inspections have been most frequently made of those sheds producing for the liquid milk market, and from the Inspector's reports and my own observation on visits to cowsheds, there is little upon which an adverse report could be made. The farmer has to do his best with labour unskilled and often unsuited to his work, and generally he can be commended for the degree of quality he has maintained. Not until the milk producer and his workers fully understand elementary bacteriology, and apply their knowledge, shall we have near-perfect milk. Or shall we? No indisposition of any kind has been traceable to milk during the year. Accredited (supervised by the West Riding County Health Department) is very popular, and there are many exceptionally good sheds in the area housing top-class and scrupulously clean cattle. Your Sanitary Inspectors work in close co-operation with those of the County Council, who are helpful and popular fellows, and whose visits to the district are always welcome.

SEWERAGE.

In this connection there is little to report. The West Riding Rivers Board have had no complaints to make, and although labour has at times had to be diverted into other channels, the disposal works have functioned satisfactorily No doubt there are improvements due when the time is appropriate.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As with the general health of the district, the position as regards infectious disease has remained good throughout the year. The cases notified have been scattered over a wide area, and from investigations made, would appear to have arisen from contacts in other and more populous areas. The increasing number of children travelling in public and special vehicles to schools renders the ascertainment of origin of infection more difficult.

OVERCROWDING.

Apart from a few isolated cases, principally on account of newly married couples having no houses to set up housekeeping in, or of relatives returning from other areas, there is very little overcrowding. All houses which could be put into reasonable order for temporary use, have been licensed where required.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

The changes in the styles and packings of food, which have become necessary, have resulted in a slight increase in the condemnation of canned foods. All foods fit for salvage (pig or poultry feeding) are directed into the appropriate channels.

COLLECTION OF REFUSE.

This is carried out by two contractors, one in the former Ripon Rural area, and one in the Pateley Bridge Rural area. Taking into consideration the difficulties contractors have in retaining suitable men for the work, it is a matter for congratulation that complaints have been conspicuous by their absence. The reports of the Chief Sanitary Inspector on the control and dressing of tips show that no nuisance is caused by refuse disposal, and the continued baiting and trapping keep down the rat population.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. A. FLINTOFF,

Medical Officer of Health.

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